

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01017 011238Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-04 CEA-01 IO-13 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 PA-01
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R 011150Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1088
AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM
AMCONSUL THE HAGUE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1017

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, IR, NL
SUBJ: PROJECTED IRANIAN BOYCOTT OF DUTCH GOODS

REF: (A) TEHRAN 867 (NOTAL), (B) TEHRAN 551 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. IRANIAN CONSUMER GROUP HAS THREATENED TO BOYCOTT DUTCH GOODS IF NETHERLANDS "PERMITS" ANTI-IRANIAN CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN AMSTERDAM FEB 18. DUTCH EMBASSY HAS NO OFFICIAL WORD, BUT RECALLS SIMILAR BOYCOTT THREE YEARS AGO WHEN GON FAILED TO PROTECT IRANIAN MISSION IN NETHERLANDS ADEQUATELY. IRANIAN CAMPAIGN APPEARS OFFICIALLY INSPIRED AND REFLECTS GROWING GOI SENSITIVITY TO ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES ABORAD. END SUMMARY.

1. FEB 1, ENGLISH (BUT NOT FARSI) PRESS HEADLINED JAN 31 ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS(NCPC) SENATOR MOHAMMAD ALI SAFFARI, THAT NETHERLANDS FACES MASS TRADE BOYCOTT IF IT PERMITS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 01017 011238Z

ANTI-IRANIAN GROUPS UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) INTERNATIONAL SECTION TO HOLD CONFERENCE FEB 18 IN AMSTERDAM AS ANNOUNCED EARLIER (REF A). SAFFARI TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE DUTCH GOVERNMENT MUST ALTER ITS "UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE" TOWARD IRAN OR CONSUMERS WOULD PLACE \$321 MILLION (1975-6 ANNUAL LEVEL) OF DUTCH TRADE IN JEOPARDY. SAFFARI SAID GROUP WOULD INFORM DUTCH GOVERNMENT

THROUGH "PROPER CHANNELS" AND "AWAIT THE RESPONSE OF THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT" BEFORE TAKING NEXT STEP. HE EXPRESSED HOPE DUTCH WOULD NOT ADOPT ATTITUDE WHICH WOULD MAKE BOYCOTT UNAVOIDABLE. SAFFARI NOTED CAMPAIGN WAS IN RESPONSE TO LETTERS AND WIRES FROM "ALL OVER IRAN" (WE DOUBT THIS) REGARDING REVELATIONS OF PROJECTED CONFERENCE. SAFFARI ADDED EARLIER AI CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN CANCELLED AFTER WIDE INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY DEVELOPED (REF B).

2. NETHERLANDS EMBOFF TOLD US NO COMMUNICATION OF ANY KIND REGARDING BOYCOTT HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY EMB AS OF MID-MORNING FEB 1. HE ADDED DUTCH IN AWKWARD POSITION, BECAUSE GON HAS NO RPT NO LEGAL RIGHT TO BAN CONFERENCE. HE THOUGH IRAN WAS APPARENTLY PICKING ON HOLLAND SINCE IT WAS SMALL COUNTRY, "UNLIKE GERMANY OR U.S.," WHERE OTHER CONFERENCES HAVE BEEN HELD. DUTCH HAD CERTAINLY NOT INVITED PARTICIPANTS TO HOLD CONFERENCE, AND THERE APPEARED NO LEGAL MEASURES AVAILABLE TO GON, UNLIKE SITUATION THREE YEARS AGO WHEN REDICALS ATTACKED IRANIAN EMBASSY IN HAGUE AND DUTCH FONMIN EVENTUALLY GAVE GOI MINI-APOLOGY IN WAKE OF SHOR IRANIAN BOYCOTT.

3. COMMENT: BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN APPEARS OFFICIAL INSPIRED. SAFFARI IS 76 YEAR-OLD ESTABLISHMENT FIGURE ACTING AS FRONT MAN FOR NCPC, WHICH IS ORGANIZATION BORN OUT OF GOI-RESURGENCE PARTY PRICE FIXING CAMPAIGNS. SAFFARI HAS HELD MANY JOBS IN LONG AND FULL LIFE AND IN RECENT YEARS WAS IRAN NOVIN PARTY(GOVERNMENT) LEADER IN 5TH SENATE (1967-71) BEFORE BECOMING HEAD OF CONSUMER GROUP IN 1973 WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 01017 011238Z

EVENTUALLY EVOLVED INTO PRESENT NCPC. HE AND NCPC WOULD NOT TAKE LEAD IN PRESENT ACTION WITHOUT AT LEAST TACIT APPROVAL OF GOI. STRONG GOI REACTION MORE OR LESS EXPECTED IN LIGHT OF RECENT DISCLOSURES REGARDING PROJECTED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AGAINST IRAN. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, MFA UNDERSECRETARY NASSIR ASSAR MADE NO ATTEMPT DISGUISE GOI APPROVAL OF MOVE, AND SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS "REASONABLE" TO EXPECT GON TO FIND A WAY TO BLOCK CONFERENCE, ADDING "GERMANS FOUND A WAY." (BELIEVE THIS REFERS TO REPORTS EMB HAS RECEIVED THAT WEST GERMANY BLOCKED ENTRY OF SOME STUDENTS WHO WISHED TO ATTEND JANUARY 1977 FRANKFURT CONFERENCE). UNLESS DUTCH FIND A WAY TO ACT AGAINST CONFERENCE, OR PUBLICITY INDUCES ORGANIZERS TO CANCEL MEETING, IRAN AND GON MAY GO THROUGH SOME TENSE MOMENTS OVER NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.
MIKLOS

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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